

1

E

INTELL. LIBRARY

A N N U A L     R E P O R T

-- of the --

MEDICAL OFFICER of HEALTH

for the

BASINGSTOKE RURAL DISTRICT

for the Year 1925.

-----



April, 1926.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to present my Report for the year 1925, this being my second Annual Report as your Medical Officer.

As directed by the Ministry of Health, this is to be a Survey Report, and contains rather more detail than that for last year.

Natural and Social Conditions.

Area (acres)	72,759
Population (1925)	13,110
Number of inhabited houses (1921)	2,964
Number of families or separate occupiers (1921)	3,032
Rateable value	£130,786
Sum represented by a penny rate	£461

The district includes 39 parishes, and is mainly agricultural and residential.

The subsoil is, broadly speaking, chalk in the southern Downs part, and London Clay in the northern woodland part, with here and there some sand and gravel.

The highest part of the district is at Farleigh and Ellisfield, 680 feet above sea level, and the lowest at Stratfieldsaye, 160 feet.

Extracts from Vital Statistics for the Year.

		Total	Male	Female	
Births	(Legitimate	221	119	102	Birth rate 18.0
	(				
	(Illegitimate	14	7	7	
Deaths		152	71	81	Death rate 9.3

Deaths of Infants under 1 year were 13.



## General Health Services.

There is a Cottage Hospital at Basingstoke: the County Hospitals at Reading and Winchester are much used. Cases of Infectious Disease are treated in the Basingstoke Isolation Hospital, by arrangement with the Borough Council. The District Council has the use of the motor ambulance attached to the Isolation Hospital: for non-infectious and accident cases the British Red Cross Society maintain a motor ambulance stationed in Basingstoke.

Maternity and Infant Welfare Centres, staffed by the County Council, are in operation at Newnham, Oakley, Preston Candover, and Worting.

The County Council also provide a Tuberculosis Dispensary and a V.D. Clinic at Basingstoke.

There is one Sanitary Inspector, who combines the office with that of District Surveyor. At the end of the year Mr. Forrester retired on account of ill-health; his knowledge of the district and experience, extending over more than 30 years, will be greatly missed. His report is appended.

There are 15 Nurse-Midwives practising in the district.

The County Council Laboratory provides all necessary facilities for chemical analysis, etc.

The Council keep a supply of Diphtheria anti-toxin for the use of Medical men in the district.

## Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

Water. On the Eastern edge of the district of the Frimley and Farnborough District Water Company supply is available: this water is obtained from deep bores in the Hartley Wintney District, and is exceedingly pure but




rather hard, a fact of which complaints are frequent. The Company are enlarging their softening plant, and improvement may be expected in this respect.

In the southern part of the district, wells have to be sunk very deep into the chalk, and a satisfactory supply is usually obtained in this way: occasionally, on account of the distance to be traversed before water is found, houses are dependent on rain-water collected and stored in tanks.

I am of opinion that the Council should not issue a certificate under the Public Health (Water) Act in such a case, unless they are satisfied that it is impossible to obtain a supply by boring: collected rain water generally has much dirt in suspension, washed off the collecting surface, is not very palatable, and should only be permitted as a drinking supply when absolutely no means exist for providing better.

In the northern part of the district the wells are commonly shallow, dry brick steined, and inadequately protected from contamination: it is curious that the well sinkers are so conservative in this matter: concrete tubes, 2 feet in diameter, carefully jointed, and carried from the bottom of the well to above ground surface, ensure freedom from surface pollution. Often one comes across cases where trouble has been taken to construct good fitting lids and perhaps a concrete surround, when any quantity of surface pollution can enter the well between the bricks at or just below ground level. Expense is the chief consideration in this matter.

In the agricultural villages the closet accommodation is usually a pail or a "pit privy". The former is preferable, but either may become a nuisance in the hands of a careless householder. The pit privy is a danger where, as is often found, it is situated within a short distance of a shallow well.



Digitized by the Internet Archive  
in 2016 with funding from  
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b28907875>



1       The larger houses in the villages, and some quite small houses in places like Hook, have W.Cs. draining to cesspools. The satisfactory independent disposal of house drainage is in many cases a difficult problem: where ground is sufficient it is usually fairly simple, but on small premises the water carriage system is apt to cause nuisance, and dry closets are preferable.

      The remark made above in reference to pit privies applies also to cesspools. When a leaky cesspool and a well are too close it may be found that as long as one is full, the other is never empty.

Schools.     The sanitary condition of these varies a good deal: in several cases improvements have been effected during the last five years.

      The fact that I hold the appointment of an Assistant to the School Medical Officer facilitates dealing with outbreaks of Infectious Disease and prevents overlapping.

Housing.    In most of the parishes the population, as shewn by the Census, has declined since 1911, or else is practically stationary. The total increase in population, which in the ten years amounted to just under 300, is mainly accounted for by increases in the parishes of Bramley, due to the Ordnance Depot, Pamber, and Sherborne St. John. Considered by itself, the stationary population would argue against any shortage of houses, but on the other hand the district is affected by shortage in the adjoining districts, including the Borough of Basingstoke, so that there are always many applicants for a house which happens to become empty. Modern transport facilities affect the question in several ways, e.g. a man can live farther from his employment than was the case before the war, and there is a growing tendency for cottages to be developed into "week-end residences", which diminishes the number of cottages



1

available for the agricultural worker. Up to the present this district is less affected by this factor than many other parts of the County.

The Council have embarked on the building of cottages to house their roadmen: they also converted part of the Union house into "flats", in which six families can be housed. From the sanitary point of view these "flats" are not altogether a success, and I think that the sooner it is found possible to terminate this arrangement the better.

There is "development" going on in certain parts of the district, and in these places very indifferently constructed dwellings, converted huts and the like, are being erected: it would appear desirable that some powers should be held by the Council enabling them to exercise some control with a view to preventing the erection and occupation of structures which are certain before long to fail badly and thus produce conditions which call for the attention of the Council from a sanitary aspect.

The Council approached the Ministry of Health with an inquiry as to the adoption of some modified bye-laws, and the Ministry replied to the effect that as it had been found possible hitherto to do without bye-laws, the Minister would not suggest the adoption of bye-laws at the present time, so the matter dropped.

This view of the Ministry seems curious, since it appears to imply that conditions in the district have not changed.

#### Housing Statistics for 1925.

Number of new houses erected during the year:-

(a)	Total	50
(b)	With assistance under Housing Acts:	
	(1) by the Local Authority	nil
	(2) by other persons	28



## Unfit Houses.

### Inspection:

(1) Number of houses inspected under the Public Health or Housing Acts	388
(2) Number of houses inspected under the Housing Regulations	75
(3) Number of houses found to be so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit	nil
(4) Number of houses found not in all respects fit for habitation	175

### Remedy of defects without formal action:

Number of houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by L.A. or their officers	25
---	----

### Action under Statutory Powers:

A. Under Housing Act 1925, Sect: 3 nil

B. Under Public Health Acts:

(1) Number of houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied 80

(2) Number of houses in which repairs were carried out after service of notice (by owners) 80  
(by L.A.) nil

C. Under Housing Act, 1909:

(1) Number of houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs 70

(2) Number of houses rendered fit by owners 70

Closing Orders nil

## Food Supply.

Milk. The cowsheds and dairies of the district have been thoroughly inspected. It is perhaps not sufficiently realised that in the production of clean milk the methods are of very much greater importance than the equipment; conscientious and trained milkers and dairy-hands will produce clean milk in spite of big handicaps in the way of insanitary buildings and



other difficulties, whereas some people with elaborate kit and up-to-date buildings will never produce clean milk.

Meat. There is little regular slaughtering in the district, and the Meat Regulations are complied with. A certain amount of casual slaughtering, mostly pigs, goes on, and, in a district of this type, it is impossible to exercise much control, and the necessity for inspection of the cottage pig is doubtful.

#### Infectious Disease.

During the past five years Infectious Disease has not been remarkably prevalent: there have been small outbreaks of Diphtheria at Basing and North Waltham, and mild Scarlet Fever has occurred in several places.

In 1925, Scarlet Fever was very prevalent, 53 cases being notified: most were mild in character: the epidemic lasted all through the year, reaching a maximum in September and October: in view of the fact that there was a considerable epidemic in the Borough of Basingstoke, even more cases might have been expected in this district.

Two cases of Enteric Fever were notified, both in the same family, with one death. The origin of this was not determined, but I was suspicious of shell fish which had been eaten.

Chicken-pox was made notifiable in November 1923, but the result was not a success: few of the cases are seen by a Doctor, probably only those which would have a Doctor in any case. The type of case which does not consult a Doctor, which notification was intended to bring to light, does not get notified. The Council resolved, in December 1925, to discontinue the compulsory notification of this disease.







# Notifiable Diseases during the Year.

	Notified	Admitted to Hospital	Deaths
Smallpox	nil		
Scarlet Fever	53	40	
Diphtheria	nil		
Enteric	2	2	1
Erysipelas	4	0	
Chickenpox	21	0	
Pneumonia	2	0	
Encephalitis lethargica	3	0	
Ophthalmia neonatorum	4	0	
		vision unimpaired.	
Tuberculosis			
	Pulmonary	Non-pulmonary	
	M. F.	M. F.	
1 to 15	0 1	2 0	
15 25	0 0	0 0	
25 35	1 2	0 0	
35 45	2 0	0 0	
45 55	1 0	0 0	
Total	4 3	2 0	
Deaths all ages	2 1	1 1	

On the whole the health of the district during the period under review has been good, and there has been no occurrence of outstanding importance from the public health point of view.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

Mark Avent,

Medical Officer of  
Health.



Surveyor's Office,  
15, Chequers Road,  
Basingstoke.

March 1st, 1936.

Ladies & Gentlemen,

Basing.

Three new cottages have been built with earth closets. Three samples of water analysed. Six cottages have been repaired and limewashed. Four closets converted to earth closets. Ten closets cleaned. Two walls cleaned and curbs repaired.

Bramley.

Four new cottages have been built with earth closets. Four samples of water analysed. Five cottages repaired and limewashed. Three closets converted to earth closets. Five cleaned.

Bradley.

Two cottages have been repaired and lime-washed. Three closets cleaned.

Cliddesden.

Five cottages have been repaired and limewashed. Two closets converted to earth closets. Four cleaned.

Deane.

Three cottages have been repaired and limewashed. Three closets cleaned. One well curb repaired.

Dummer.

One new house built with W.C. and earth closet. One sample of water analysed. Four cottages have been repaired and limewashed. Two closets converted to earth closets. Five cleaned.

Herriard.

Four cottages have been repaired and limewashed. Five closets cleaned.

Hartley Wespall.

Two cottages have been repaired and limewashed. Five closets cleaned.

Farleigh  
Wallop.

Two cottages have been repaired and limewashed. Four closets cleaned.

Mapledurwell.

Three cottages have been repaired and limewashed. Five closets cleaned. One sample of water analysed.

Mortimer  
West End.

Three cottages have been repaired and limewashed. Four closets cleaned.

Nately Scoures  
& Up Nately.

One new bungalow built. One sample of water analysed. Three cottages repaired and limewashed. Three closets cleaned. One well curb repaired.

Newnham.

Thirteen new bungalows built and two Army huts. Twelve bungalows supplied from Frimley and Farnborough Water Company, and two Army huts. One sample of water analysed. Four cottages repaired and limewashed. Four closets cleaned.

North  
Waltham.

Four cottages have been repaired and limewashed. Three closets converted to earth closets. Six cleaned. One well curb repaired.

Nutley.

Three cottages have been repaired and limewashed. Three closets repaired and converted to earth closets. Four cleaned. One well curb repaired.



Oakley.

One new bungalow built with earth closet. One sample of water analysed. Four cottages repaired and limewashed. Four closets cleaned.

Preston  
Candover.

Five cottages have been repaired and limewashed. Two closets converted to earth closets. Six cleaned. One well curb repaired.

Popham &  
Woodmancote.

One new cottage built with earth closet. One sample of water analysed. Two cottages repaired and limewashed. Three closets cleaned.

Pamber.

Seven cottages have been built with earth closets. Seven samples of water analysed. Four cottages repaired and limewashed. Four closets cleaned.

Sherbourne  
St. John.

One new cottage and three new bungalows have been built with earth closets. Four samples of water analysed. Four cottages repaired and limewashed. Six closets cleaned.

Silchester.

Three cottages repaired and limewashed. Four closets cleaned.

Steventon.

One new bungalow built with earth closets. One sample of water analysed. Four cottages repaired and limewashed. Four closets cleaned.

Stratfield  
Turgis.

Two cottages repaired and limewashed. Three closets cleaned.

Sherfield.

Four cottages repaired and limewashed. Four closets cleaned.

Stratfield-  
saye.

Three cottages repaired and limewashed. Four closets cleaned.

Tunworth.

Two cottages repaired and limewashed. Four closets cleaned.

Upton Grey.

Three cottages repaired and limewashed. Three closets cleaned. One new cottage built with earth closet. Water laid on from Frimley and Farnborough Company.

Worting.

Three new cottages and one bungalow built with earth closets. Two samples of water analysed. Ten cottages repaired and limewashed. Twelve closets cleaned. One well curb repaired.

Weston  
Patrick &  
Corbatt.

Two cottages repaired and limewashed. Three closets cleaned.

West  
Sherbourne.

Two new bungalows have been built with earth closets. Two samples of water analysed. Four cottages repaired and limewashed. Four closets cleaned.

Wootton St.  
Laurence

Three new bungalows have been built with earth closets. Three samples of water analysed. Ten cottages have been repaired and limewashed. Ten closets cleaned.

One hundred and seventy-five cottages have been inspected: One hundred under the Public Health Act, seventy-five under the Housing & Town Planning Act 1909, Regulations 1916 and 1919.





Three hundred and eighty eight inspections made. Eighty notices were sent to Owners or Agents under the Public Health Act, Seventy under the Housing & Town Planning Act 1909, and twenty-five verbal notices. For one hundred and forty-five cottages and bungalows various repairs were carried out.

One new house built, twenty cottages, twenty-seven new bungalows, two Army huts.

Thirty-nine samples of water analysed, three unsatisfactory.

Eight new cottages, seven new bungalows, and one Army Hut commenced.

Fever Cases. In each case disinfectants supplied and disinfection carried out, and the bedding and clothing sent to the Isolation Hospital for disinfection.

Scarlet Fever cases were imported from Basingstoke Urban District, Kingsclere District, and from Bentworth. The Bentworth cases developed scarlet fever within a few hours after returning from hopping.

Tuberculosis. To each case notified disinfectants and sputum cups have been supplied and disinfection carried out when ordered by the Medical Officer of Health.

Milk Supply. There are 118 registered Cowkeepers, Dairymen and Purveyors of Milk, 41 Retailers of milk. Three new ones have been registered. There are 151 Cowsheds. 302 Inspections have been made. In 10 cases notices were sent to limewash and two to drain. They were complied with.

Bakehouses. There are 15 Bakehouses; 45 Inspections have been made. No. 1 Notice was sent in 6 cases to limewash and complied with.

Schools. There are 25 schools. 80 inspections have been made. In 5 cases notice was sent to limewash sanitary offices and remove rubbish heaps. They were carried out.

There are two small Slaughterhouses, one at Preston Candover, and one at Sherfield; they are well kept.

Factories: 65. Workshops: 55. Workplaces: 3  
No. 1. Notice was sent in 6 cases to limewash; they were complied with.

I am, Ladies & Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

R. FORRESTER.

